

THE SENTINEL

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The Democrats say they are sure of New Jersey in 1892. Their confidence is probably not misplaced. New Jersey gave its vote to McClellan, who ran for president in 1864 on an anti-war ticket, when no other State except Delaware and Kentucky did this.

The section Democrats are entitled to all the comfort they can obtain from their belief that free coinage defeated Campbell, but as their party is doomed to make free coinage one of its leading issues in the national canvas next year, this comfort will not wear well.

In 1850 the United States produced thirty per cent. of the world's production of pig iron, and thirty-two per cent. of its production of all kinds of steel. Yet a while ago Democratic free-traders were saying that the manufacture of steel in the United States was a myth.

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It is to be hoped that the enthusiastic ladies who are going to give Mrs. Palmer a hammer to drive that silver nail in the woman's building will remember that silver nails are not as firm as nails of iron or steel. A soft hammer will be required to prevent the nail from shooting; that it is for ceremony only. It might be well to complete the pretty "kit" by providing an sugar to bore a hole in advance for the nail to slide into, because, not to deny a simple fact, it won't drive at all if it be perpendicular.

Three Things to Consider.

The United States ought to be sure that they are right before they go ahead with Chile or with any other country. If they go ahead and are wrong they will, of course, have to be sustained by their own citizens, because, in the event of a complication amounting to real or apparent war, old Commodore Decatur's fallacious aphorism, "Our country, right or wrong," would become the compelling creed of the nation in which party lines of division would fall down and be dissolved. It is, however, of the first importance that this republic be right before it goes ahead, and that it shall not go ahead before it is right. As in every marriage there are three parties, the husband, the wife and the social community at large, so in every war are there three parties, the attacking nation, the defending nation and the moral opinion of the rest of the world. That moral opinion does not determine the question of justice, but it does predetermine the verdict of history. This is a fact the United States and especially the Washington administration would do well to bear in mind.—*Brooklyn Eagle*.

Monopolies and the Patent Office.—Of course the Bell telephone company is rich enough to crush all its rivals of the patent office, as well as the courts can be controlled in the interest of that monopoly.

But it is a serious matter to charge that the officials of the patent office are in collusion with the Bell people to prevent competition for another generation. Those who make the charge should either substantiate or withdraw it. Still it is not surprising that the general public should be ready to credit the assertion that the Bell company is intriguing to tighten its grip on the people. The record of this monopoly is one of conscious extortion, and it would be a public misfortune if the monopoly were not broken in the near future.

Telephones, like every other commodity that has entered into daily and general use, should be given to the public at a fair price. Other companies willing to operate at a legitimate profit have been driven out of the field by the Bell company, aided by the courts and the patent law. But the public has not ceased to hope that with the expiration of the main Bell patents, not almost at hand, competition would come, and with it deliverance from extortion.

Hence the widespread regret when it is learned that the Bell company may be able to secure new patents for telephone improvements that will enable it to continue and extend its present monopoly. If such a public misfortune must be borne it must only be because the public cannot help itself. No juggling in the patent office will be tolerated for a moment. There must be a fair field for all rivals.

Debt-Paying and Prosperity.

One of the surest indications that this is a year of unprecedented prosperity for the farmers is the fact that the close of the year will witness an enormous shrinkage in the aggregate of debts on western farms.

In their last weekly report R. G. Egan & Co. say:

Records of mortgages satisfied in the west show that enormous sums are taken for that purpose by farmers from their receipts, so that an unusual portion of the money paid for crops goes to cancel debts created in past years.

Doubtless this in part explains the fact that the demand for various manufactured products has not yet increased so largely as was expected in view of the great crop season.

It is the voluntary liquidation that gives to the business of this country its present solidity and its glowing prospects for the future. A good year for paying debts always denotes high water mark in national prosperity. If it were not for the excesses of liquidation the inflations would long ago have wrecked the financial stability of the republic.

The most gratifying feature in the commercial report quoted above is the fact that western farmers prefer paying their debts to baulking out into further credits beyond their means. This is doubtless partly due to the desire to get rid of redundant interest, but it is also partially explained by the inherent desire for independence that is a natural trait of the American farmer. Retrenchment and debt paying, combined with good crops, will make the west invincible as to its financial status in the future.

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German Socialism.—In the briefest words, German socialism has ceased to be the revolutionary propaganda that it once seemed and has become a peaceful and parliamentary agitation for reform. They are still, of course, in Germany, as elsewhere else in the world, professional socialists who cherish book theories of a radical reorganization of society on a new plan and violent adherents who find no means of relieving their discontent except, in fire and sword. But the socialism that is now so conspicuous now in Germany, or at all powerful as a political factor, is, as was remarked recently in our London correspondence, little more than the advanced liberalism of England. In undergoing that change it has lost most of its formality, just as the working men's agitation in this country, which a few years ago was so fierily bolding, and which caused a great deal of needless apprehension, has now simmered down into moderation and comparative harmlessness. A hint to the wise is sufficient.—La Belle Star.

Engel's Requests to Beatrice.

The queen and the ex Empress Eugenie are very fond of each other. Eugenie is now at Farnborough, near Aldershot, and wants the queen to come and visit her there. Both ladies are said to be connoisseurs in funeral and all that pertains to these lugubrious ceremonies, and, therefore, when they can indulge in a great deal of congenial conversation and mingle their tears pleasantly. Eugenie is very proud and insists upon having the crest and motto of her husband, with a big "X" on her harness and on the rings with which she goes to drive. Eugenie is very fond of the Princess Beatrice's children. She has willed all her available funds to the Princess Beatrice, to be settled upon her and her alone. Princess Henry of Battenberg is not to get one penny.

Glorious Missouri.—Whether St. Louis knows it or not, Missouri is a country of unequalled beauty. The skies of the Indian Islands could not be bluer than the October skies of Missouri. In the infidelity of her R. P. husband, Mrs. Eugenie said that St. Louis in Missouri is a diamond in a dirty shirt front. Yet there are Missouri hills thirty miles from St. Louis where one may stand in the quiet of an October Sunday and look over hundreds of thousands of acres of country so beautiful that if the eyes closed but for a moment it passes the power of the imagination to realize them.

Southern Politics.—In the south the principles of the newly-organized People's party are on trial, and it is gratifying to note that the wildest ideas of the radicals among that party are likely to be sternly rebuked by the conservative voters of both the old parties. The sub-treasury scheme in particular will receive condemnation at the polls if the political straws of the past few months may be relied upon and the result will materially affect the fortunes of the People's party in 1892. In Louisiana the lottery fight plays a most important part. The octopus has captured the Democratic party machinery and is using it with such disregard of other interests than their own that they are forming a combination with the old lattice Democrats and alliance men with the Republican party, which has been responsible for terrible blows dealt the latter in the recent past. Louisiana will bear watching. It may break up the south-south.—*Denver Times*.

What It Has Done.—The McKinley measure has done more for the American farmer in one year's time than the Democracy had accomplished for him in its whole career. The bill has opened a vast South American market for the disposal of his surplus produce. It has secured the admission of the American hog and probably of American cereals into Germany. It protects every stock of even, every head of cattle and every potato grown on farmland, by duties higher than ever. And it has reduced the price of bacon and the very clothes he wears. When the Democracy can show such results accomplished in one year by any one piece of national legislation it has a perfect right to ask for the farmer's vote. But not till then.

The New York Tribune asks: Why cannot the free trade newspapers be as knowledge as honest journals, that both import and exports have been enormously increased under the McKinley bill, and that the revenues have increased in other words, that the people are becoming more free than ever, and paying less for the same? These are the two results that the Democracy declared could never come from the McKinley bill. But they have, now. Then why not come to the scratchlike man, and say so?

The New York Herald is still spewing at the mouth because "the United States spends more in pensions" for its old veterans "than it costs to support the German army." It naturally draws the eye to the German army, but they have, now.

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The N. W. C. T. U. Convention.

The National W. C. T. U. convention just held in Boston drew together crowds so large unparalleled. Some one said ten thousand was a cheering sign when the crowd trying to get into a woman's convention stopped the horses cars in the street. People came an hour before the doors were open, only to find both the mad carriages leading up to Tremont Temple already packed with a dense, inextricable mass of waiting humanity. It is a good-natured crowd, however, which laughs and makes jokes and song hymns while waiting.

The assembling of so many earnest, intelligent and philanthropic women from all parts of the United States, and even from the ends of the earth, was a pleasant and inspiring sight. Lucy Henry Somersett was an object of especial attraction, and seems to have won all hearts. The great hall was a picture-queue spectacle, brilliantly decorated with flags and streamers, and mottos ranging in sentiment from the grim righteousness of Old Testament texts to the words of Frances Willard, exhorting all women to be as good natured as sunshines, but as persistent as gravitation.

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Hints to Boys.

Each boy should sleep alone, rather than two together, where this is possible; should sleep on hard mattress of busks and straw never on feather-bed; should have as few covers as will make him comfortable and never be over warm. Beds are often cold because the cold comes up through the mattress; this is the case, say, in blanket or mattress under the sleeper. Hard boys should not sleep in warm rooms but there is no objection in sleeping in rooms from which the chill has been taken, as in a room opening into a warm hall. The room should be thoroughly ventilated, windows open wide as they grow; opening a window an inch or twigs give ventilation at all. Boys under fourteen years of age need not less than nine hours sleep each night to grow up into vigorous men; this is most important. On terms, boys often called so early that they do not get much more than half enough sleep, result, they make men of weak minds and weak bodies. In towns, boys often lose sleep over their school books, or in running the streets. Not boy under four seen should be out after dark, and no boy under fourteen should be required to study at home; the school day is long enough for that. No objection, however, to his reading in the evening. When he goes to bed it should be to sleep, and to worry over lesson.

The boy should go to bed early, either shortly after dinner or immediately after the meal, and be collected by the time he goes to bed.

He cannot sleep. The feet are not warmed by bathing in cold water, and then rubbing with coarse towel until dry. He should not go to bed hungry, but a glass of milk or a piece of bread and butter is all he needs on retiring. He should sleep with face away from window, for the early light and the moonlight shining into the eyes is injurious to the delicate organs. If the rising hour is six, the room should be darkened, else in the summer season he will be awakened at break of day, two hours before the rising hour. When required to lose sleep he should be given time to move about. When sick, sleep is often of more value than medicine; give him all the sleep he asks for. New York Tribune.

Horrors of Life in Russia.

An eye witness of the distress incident to the Russian famine who has just returned from the government district of Kusen says:

You who live in towns can form no conception of the distress among the rural population. I cannot describe all I have seen, but I will give you some examples. A few days ago I visited the village of Narey. Within the last half hour I met sixteen poor creatures at the last extremity of woe. Many of them had not touched a morsel of food for a week. With tortured faces, staring eyes they gazed at me. They were only able to stretch out their hands for the food offered them. A few only had strength enough to eat it. They generally die before help comes. The longer I remained in the village the more misery I discovered. Outside their houses, in front of the church, and in other places were numbers of the day laborers who had come to town and had not touched a morsel of food for a week. With tortured faces, staring eyes they gazed at me.

Some were quite apathetic and seemed utterly indifferent to all that was going on around them, and were evidently resigned to their fate, while others raved in despair, pectinating and wildly crying out, "Bread, bread, do not let me starve."

Everything edible has long since disappeared. While vegetables and berries could be obtained by the poor, the people managed to live, but at last even that resource was exhausted. The villagers then gathered lame tree leaves which they dried, pounded in mortars and made into soup. Farther along the road nothing else was to be found but the bones of dead animals.

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FACT AND FICTION,